

TOWN OF TREMONT  
HARBOR COMMITTEE MEETING  
TREMONT COMMUNITY BUILDING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2004  
6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Harbor Committee meeting of Wednesday, March 17, 2004 was called to order at 6:04 PM by Chairman Stewart Murphy.

2. ROLL CALL

Stewart Murphy, Everett Beers, Charlie Dillon, Mel Atherton, Northwood Kenway, Harbormaster Al Price, and recording Secretary Heidi Farley.

Scott Grierson visitor.

3. ACCEPT MINUTES

Charlie motioned to accept minutes of February 11, 2004, Northwood seconded, unanimous.

4. RESIGNATIONS

Scott Harper gave a letter of resignation from the Harbor Committee to the Town, which was forwarded to Chairman Stewart Murphy. After some discussion, it was voted to accept his resignation.

Mel motioned to accept Scott Harper's letter of resignation as written, Charlie seconded, unanimous.

Harbor Committee received a letter of resignation from Harbormaster Al Price. Stewart hates to see him go and would like to not accept his resignation. Mel is totally surprised as well as everyone else. Everyone feels Al does a great job and that it will be a huge loss to the Town. Al stated that there is a complete lack of support from the Selectmen. They turned him down for Harbormaster training which is a requirement in his job description. The Selectmen did vote to send Elwood Kelley who is retired to ACO training but wouldn't send Al to his training. Charlie mentioned that he would like to give Al and the Selectmen time to think about this. Stewart thinks we can make this work, he has documentation that the Harbor Committee has approved less than \$250.00. He believes that it was the Town Managers job to send Al and that it didn't need to go to the Selectmen. Stewart commented that it is very rare for a municipality to ever deny training. Charlie wanted to know if it is legal for the Selectmen to overrule the Harbor Committee on this matter. Charlie feels that the Harbor Committee should write a letter to the Selectmen asking why they voted not to send Al for training. Mel stated that the Selectmen shouldn't be voting if it is a personal issue with Al and they aren't working in the best interest of the Town if that is the case. Charlie motioned to table Al's resignation and to send a letter to the Selectmen

requesting an answer as to why Al's training was denied, Mel seconded, unanimous. Everyone will come in to sign it.

Stewart mentioned attendance and lack of it and would like the Board to recommend to the Selectmen exactly how many people they would like on the Board so that they can have a quorum.

Charlie made a motion to recommend to Selectmen that the Harbor Committee would like to remain a 7 member-voting Board, Mel seconded, unanimous.

It was brought up that Steve has missed 4 meetings in a row and so has Haywood. They can't have meetings without a quorum.

Stewart made a motion to ask for resignations from Steve Harper and Haywood May from the Harbor Committee, Charlie seconded, unanimous.

5. ORDINANCE CHANGES AND FEES

Harbormaster stated that there is over \$100,000.00 in Wharf and Harbor Management accounts. He said that \$20000.00 has disappeared. He also stated that the Selectmen have neglected their fiduciary duties and we should withdraw the fee changes until the Selectmen get their act together. Stewart reported that the impact fee is gone. Al said it should have gone into the reserve account but it went into the working fund. Al advised if the Board of Selectmen can't read the books and numbers then we should not raise the fees. Stewart stated that \$18118.00 was transferred from the Municipal Wharf account and it didn't go where it should have gone, as well as \$15414 in fees that should have gone into the wharf account that did not. Charlie asked, wouldn't the auditor pick it up? Stewart said there was a new auditor this year so maybe not. Al stated that this is a felony and it is not his job to investigate numbers for the Town. Scott Grierson said that irregularities are not current members' fault. Al said it is an error of omission and they didn't fulfill their obligation to the Town. Stewart said that his wife has spent 18 hours of her own time trying to understand the Town's books. Mel commented that we should still raise fees. Stewart said he can't get a straight report on money and he has a problem adopting anything right now until money is straightened out.

Stewart made a motion to request from Selectmen a list of excise tax paid to the Town of Tremont last year broken down with a name on it, to come up with data to work with for future fee increases and to figure out wharf and Harbor Management accounts, Mel seconded, unanimous.

Charlie made a motion to table changes to wharf ordinance fee changes, mooring user or dealer this year, Northwood seconded, 4 yes, Mel voted against.

Charlie motioned to accept proposed changes to the Harbor Management Ordinance, Northwood seconded, unanimous.

6. OTHER

None

7. ADJOURN

Mel motioned to adjourn at 7:45 PM, Charlie seconded, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by  
Heidi Farley  
Recording Secretary